

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT O 00759 082056Z
ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-01 TRSE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 /030 W
-----021585 082118Z /63
O 082035Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2119

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 0759

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BEXP, TD
SUBJECT: GOTT CANCELS PUERTO RICO TRADE MISSION

REF: USDOC 02552

1. MINISTRY OF EXTENAL AFFAIRS HAS INFORMED EMBASSY AFTER-
NOON OF MARCH 7 THAT IT "REGRETS TO ADVISE" THAT THE TIMEING OF
THE PUERTO RICO TRADE MISSION SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 12-17
"IS NOT CONVENIENT." TELEGRAM WAS ALSO SENT BY MEA TO JULIO
BLASINI, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR FOREIGN TRADE
OF THE COMMONWEALTH, INFORMING HIM OF THIS DECISION.

2. ACTION WAS IN RESPONSE TO LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER
WILLIAMS FROM MR. BLASINI, INFORMING HIM OF EMPENDING
MISSION, AND NOTE FROM THIS EMBASSY. NOTE WAS REQUESTED
BY CHIEF OF PROTOCOL DURING MEETIING WITH MISSION'S ADVANCE
REPRESENTATIVE (EDDIE MARTINEZ GUADALUPE), WHO VISITED HERE
FEBRUARY 20-24, IN CONNECTION WITH REQUEST FOR COURTESY
CALLS ON GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND FOR FACILITATING ENTRY
OF MISSION AT AIRPORT.

3. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED MATTER WITH
PERMANENT SECRETARY IN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, LENNOX BALLAH,
EVENING OF MARCH 7. HE CALLED AMBASSADOR BACK TODAY TO
SAY THAT THE CAUSE OF THE PROBLEM WAS THE LETTER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT O 00759 082056Z

SENT BY BLASININ TO THE PM. WHETHER BALLAH MENT THAT
THE LETTER WAS SOMEHOW OFFENSIVE (WHICH IT DOES NOT
APPEAR TO US TO BE) OR WHETHER HE MENANT THAT WITHOUT IT
THE MEA COULD HAVE GRANTED ROUTINE BLESSINGS TO THE
MISSION WAS NOT CLEAR, BUT WE SUSPECT BALLAH WAS TRYING TO
CONVEY THE LATTER. IN ANY EVENT, AMBASSADOR PLANS TO
PURSUE THE MATTER TOMORROW WITH DONALDSON, POINT OUT

(1) THAT REFUSAL TO SANCTION A ROUTINE TRADE MISSION IS UNUSUAL TO SAY THE LEAST; (2) THAT IT COULD WELL CAUSE EMBARRASSMENT TO THE GCPR, ESPECIALLY SINCE A 1976 PUERTO RICAN TRADE MISSION WAS WARMLY RECEIVED HER; AND (3) THAT IT WILL CERTAINLY RAISE QUESTIONS IN WASHINGTON FOR WHICH EMBASSY HAS NO READY ANSWERS. IN THE MEANTIME, IF THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES ANY PRESS INQUIRIES ON THIS, EMBASSY WOULD RECOMMEND THAT WE SAY THAT WE ARE DISAPPOINTED BY THE ATTITUDE OF THE GOVT ON THIS MATTER AND ARE SEEKING FURTHER CLARIFICATION.
FOX

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PORTO00759
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780104-1174
Format: TEL
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780393/aaaadamc.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4cc197cb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3404458
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOTT CANCELS PUERTO RICO TRADE MISSION
TAGS: BEXP, TD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4cc197cb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014